

STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Agenda Consideration

TOPIC: Award of Contract: Upgrade of
Athletic Bleachers - Select
School Sites (**Re-Bid**)

ITEM NO.: 9D

PREPARED BY: Quintin Sullivan
PM/Clerk of Works
Planning & Construction

MEETING: March 28, 2006
ACTION DATE: March 28, 2006
INFORMATION ONLY:

Scott Horan,
Executive Director
Planning & Construction

Andre' A. Nougaret,
Assistant Superintendent
for Support Services

ACTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT: That the School Board approve a contract in the amount of **\$334,500.00 to Seating Solutions of 63 Oser Avenue Hauppauge, NY 11788** for the upgrade of athletic field bleachers at select school sites throughout the school district.

KEY POINTS:

1. In July 2003 a Senior Loss Control Representative with Utica National Insurance Group inspected our school facilities to insure compliance with safety protocols. During this inspection outdoor bleacher safety violations were documented which needed to be addressed. Safety violations originated from non-compliance with the 1999 BOCA code and included such things as openings that were too wide between seats and walking area, no heel risers, no side rails, inadequate structural bracing, etc... The following schools had outdoor bleachers that were identified as needing some level of corrective repairs/upgrades:

- Brook Point High School (BPHS)
- Drew Middle School (DMS)
- Gair Melchers Complex
- A. G. Wright Middle School (AGWMS)
- North Stafford High School (NSHS)

The inspection also recommended SCPS contract with a structural engineer to review these findings and to design corrective repairs. In the spring of 2004, SCPS contracted with Hanover Engineers to conduct an inspection, validate deficiencies and identify corrective action. In August 2004, Hanover Engineers provided a report outlining all corrective actions. The corrective actions identified in the report exceeded the requirements of the safety inspection and included adding bleacher anchoring for wind loads and upgrading more structural members.

2. During the summer of 2005 staff also obtained the services of a bleacher inspection specialist to review the project requirements and the structural engineer's corrective recommendations. During this review **several additional project requirements** were recommended to include Stafford High School's football bleachers, and the addition of ADA access to several of the bleachers and the use of the recently adopted Life Safety Code (2000 BOCA Code effective Oct 1, 2003). The following is a list of the school bleachers included in the project:

- BPHS (Softball Field and Baseball Field)
- DMS (Football/Soccer (home & visitor))
- *Gari Melchers Complex (Football/Soccer/Track)
- AGWMS (Football/Soccer/Track (home & visitor))
- NSHS (Softball, Football/Soccer/Track (home & visitor))
- SHS (Football (home & visitor))

* It should be noted that the Gari Melchers athletic field area will be radically altered as part of ES2008 construction. The improvements identified at Gari Melchers are to the bleacher benches only and not to its supporting foundation (concrete). When construction starts for ES2008, the repaired bleachers will be moved and will be used on the existing site to support ES2008.

3. In November 2005 staff developed a comprehensive project to address all identified bleacher upgrades and advertised the project in December 2005 through the Stafford County Purchasing Department. Bids were opened on January 10, 2006. Two bids were received and staff proceeded to request approval and awarded the contract to the low bidder at the January 24, 2006 School Board meeting. In early February 2006 staff was notified by the low bidder that a mistake was made with their bid. Staff reviewed the circumstances surrounding the mistake with the Stafford County Purchasing Department staff and elected not to award the contract to the low bidder. The second bidder's bid amount was significantly over the project budget. Staff consulted with Stafford County Purchasing Department and the decision was made to re-bid the project.

4. On February 15, 2006 the re-bid was advertised through Stafford County Purchasing Department. Pre-bid conference was held on March 8, 2006. Seven (7) contractors attended the pre-bid conference or requested bid packages. On March 22, 2006 bids were opened. **Three contractors provided bids. The contractor which initially provided the low bid did not properly comply with the bid instructions and changed the completion date for the project in his bid submittal. This subtle change was not initially detected. Staff and Stafford County Purchasing Department determined the contractor to be non-responsive. Seating Solutions was then determined to be the low and responsive bidder at \$334,500.00. Staff has reviewed the bid and Seating Solutions appears to be responsive and responsible.**

5. Cost estimate for the project was originally established at \$165K. Due to the increase in project requirements (bleacher anchoring, ADA access, change in Life Safety Code and the addition of Stafford High School) the cost estimate increased to \$350K. Funding for the project was originally identified in FY05 Operating Funds – 165K. Additional operating funds (**Maintenance & Operations** Projects), approximately **16K**, are available to supplement the budgeted amount. The aforementioned funds now available in FY06 Operating Funds are proposed to be supplemented by recently

appropriated proffer funds to fully fund this effort.

6. Proffer funds are funds provided by developers to Stafford County for capital improvement efforts to offset the impact of the development on County services. Residential developers usually pay an established amount per single-family dwelling. The proffer amount paid to the County has varied over the years and is “paid” by the developer as the dwellings are built. These funds are divided between County Departments including Parks & Recreation, Utilities and School Board.

SCHOOL BOARD GOAL: #5 – Provide facilities that promote student learning and and community support.

#7 – Provide school environments where teachers are safe to teach and students are safe to learn

FUNDING SOURCE: FY06 Annual Operating Funds and Proffer Funds

AUTHORIZATION REFERENCE: Stafford County School Board Policy 4-32

February 2006